

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A merge information providing apparatus having merge  
user information providing means, said merge user information  
5 providing means comprising plural user information providing  
means providing information regarding a user as subordinate  
user information providing means,

said merge information providing apparatus acquiring said  
information regarding said user from said user information  
10 providing means and providing said acquired information  
regarding said user with merging.

2. The merge information providing apparatus of as  
claimed in claim 1, wherein said merge information providing  
15 apparatus comprises:

user information acquisition means for acquiring said  
information regarding said user from said user information  
providing means; and

user information merging means for merging said  
20 information regarding said user acquired in said user  
information acquisition means.

3. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed  
in claim 2, wherein said user information acquisition means  
25 acquires said information regarding said user from said user  
information providing means by using first use permission  
information permitting the use of said user information  
providing means.

4. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 3, further comprising use permission information acquisition means for acquiring said first use permission information from said user information providing means.

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5. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising use permission information creation means for creating second use permission information that permits the use of said merge user information providing means.

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6. The merge information providing apparatus of the claim 5, wherein said use permission information creation means creates said second use permission information including said first use permission information by using said first use permission information.

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7. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising setting means for setting up said subordinate user information providing means according to a request.

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8. A merge information providing apparatus having merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user and further providing an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means,

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said merge information providing apparatus acquiring said

information regarding said user from said user information providing means and providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

5           9. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:

          user information acquisition means for acquiring said information regarding said user from said user information providing means; and

10           user information merging means for merging said information regarding said user acquired in said user information acquisition means.

          10. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed  
15 in claim 9, wherein said user information acquisition means acquires said information regarding said user from said user information providing means by using first use permission information permitting the use of said user information providing means.

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          11. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 10, further comprising use permission information acquisition means for acquiring said first use permission information from said user information providing means.

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          12. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 8, further comprising use permission information creation means for creating second use permission information that permits the use of said merge user information providing

means.

13. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed  
in claim 12, wherein said use permission information creation  
5 means creates said second use permission information including  
said first use permission information by using said first use  
permission information.

14. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed  
10 in claim 8, further comprising setting means for setting up  
said subordinate user information providing means according to  
a request.

15. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed  
15 in claim 8, further comprising authentication information  
acquisition means for acquiring first authentication  
information certifying authentication of said user in said  
user information providing means, from said user information  
providing means.

20 16. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed  
in claim 15, further comprising second authentication  
information creation means for creating second authentication  
information containing therein said first authentication  
25 information and certifying authentication of said user in said  
merge user information providing means by using said first  
authentication information.

17. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed  
in claim 8, further comprising user distinction information  
acquisition means for acquiring user distinction information  
that distinguishes said user from said user information  
5 providing means.

18. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed  
in claim 17, wherein said user distinction information  
acquisition means acquires said user distinction information  
10 from said user information providing means by using first  
authentication information included in said second  
authentication information.

19. An information providing apparatus having user  
15 information providing means for providing information  
regarding a user,

said user information providing means providing  
information regarding a designated user in response to a  
request from a merge user information providing means, said  
20 merge user information providing means comprising said user  
information providing means and other user information  
providing means as subordinate user information providing  
means, to said merge user information providing means.

25 20. The information providing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 19, wherein said user information providing means  
further comprises user information saving means for saving  
said information regarding said user.

21. The information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein said information regarding said user is user information and/or group information of a group to which said user belong, and wherein said group information includes user  
5 information and/or group information of other user information providing means.

22. The information providing apparatus having user information providing means providing information regarding a  
10 user and further an authentication service regarding said user, said user information providing means providing information regarding a designated user in response to a request from a merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising said user  
15 information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate user information providing means, to said merge user information providing means.

20 23. The information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said user information providing means further comprises user information saving means for saving said information regarding said user.

25 24. The information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said information regarding said user is user information and/or group information of a group to which said user belongs, and wherein said group information includes user information and/or group information of other user information

providing means.

25. A managing apparatus, comprising:

a merge information providing apparatus having merge user  
5 information providing means, said merge user information  
providing means comprising plural user information providing  
means providing information regarding a user as subordinate  
user information providing means, and

setup request transmission means for transmitting a  
10 request regarding a set up of said subordinate user  
information providing means,

said merge information providing apparatus acquiring said  
information regarding said user from said user information  
providing means and providing said acquired information  
15 regarding said user with merging.

26. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 25,  
further comprising:

user information acquisition means for acquiring said  
20 information regarding said user from said user information  
providing means; and

user information merging means merging said information  
regarding said user acquired in said user information  
acquisition means.

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27. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 26,  
wherein said user information acquisition means acquires said  
information regarding said user from said user information  
providing means by using first use permission information

permitting the use of said user information providing means.

28. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed  
in claim 27, further comprising use permission information  
5 acquisition means for acquiring said first use permission  
information from said user information providing means.

29. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 25,  
further comprising use permission information creation means  
10 for creating second use permission information that permits  
the use of said merge user information providing means.

30. The managing apparatus of the claim 29, wherein said  
use permission information creation means creates said second  
15 use permission information including said first use permission  
information by using said first use permission information.

31. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 25,  
further comprising setting means for setting up said  
20 subordinate user information providing means according to a  
request.

32. A managing apparatus, comprising:

a merge information providing apparatus having merge user  
25 information providing means, said merge user information  
providing means comprising plural user information providing  
means providing information regarding a user and further  
providing an authentication service regarding said user as  
subordinate user information providing means; and



setup request transmission means for transmitting a request regarding setting up of said subordinate user information providing means,

said merge information providing apparatus acquiring said  
5 information regarding said user from said user information providing means and providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

33. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 32,  
10 further comprising:

user information acquisition means for acquiring said information regarding said user from said user information providing means; and

user information merging means for merging said  
15 information regarding said user acquired in said user information acquisition means.

34. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 33,  
wherein said user information acquisition means acquires said  
20 information regarding said user from said user information providing means by using first use permission information permitting the use of said user information providing means.

35. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 34,  
25 further comprising use permission information acquisition means for acquiring said first use permission information from said user information providing means.

36. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 32,

further comprising use permission information creation means for creating second use permission information that permits the use of said merge user information providing means.

5           37. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein said use permission information creation means creates said second use permission information including said first use permission information by using said first use permission information.

10           38. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 32, further comprising setting means for setting up said subordinate user information providing means according to a request.

15           39. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 32, further comprising authentication information acquisition means for acquiring first authentication information certifying authentication of said user in said user  
20 information providing means, from said user information providing means.

25           40. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 39, further comprising second authentication information creation means for creating second authentication information containing therein said first authentication information and certifying authentication of said user in said merge user information providing means by using said first authentication information.

41. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 32,  
further comprising user distinction information acquisition  
means for acquiring user distinction information that  
distinguishes said user from said user information providing  
5 means.

42. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 41,  
wherein said user distinction information acquisition means  
acquires said user distinction information from said user  
10 information providing means by using first authentication  
information included in said second authentication information.

43. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 42,  
further comprising setting screen display means for displaying  
15 a screen for setting said merge user information providing  
means and said subordinate user information providing means.

44. A merge information providing method in merge user  
information providing means, said merge user information  
20 providing means comprising plural user information providing  
means providing information regarding a user as subordinate  
user information providing means, said method comprising the  
steps of:

acquiring information regarding said user from user  
25 information providing means; and

providing said acquired information regarding said user  
with merging.

45. A merge information providing method in merge user

information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means and further an authentication service regarding said user, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring said information regarding said user from said user information providing means; and

providing said information regarding said user with merging.

46. An information providing method in user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user, said method comprising:

a user information offer providing step for providing, in response to a request from a merge user information providing means comprising said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate user information providing means, information regarding a designated user to said merge user information providing means.

47. An information providing method in user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user, said method comprising:

a user information providing step for providing, in response to a request from a merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising

said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate user information providing means, information regarding a designated user to said merge user information providing means.

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48. A managing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing

10 means, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring said information regarding said user from said user information providing means;

providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

15 transmitting a set up request requesting for a set up of said subordinate user information providing means.

49. A managing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means, said method comprising the steps of:

25 acquiring said information regarding said user from said user information providing means;

providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a set up request regarding a set up of said subordinate user information providing means.

50. A computer-implemented method for providing merge information in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means, said  
5 method comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding said user from user information providing means; and

providing said acquired information regarding said user  
10 with merging.

51. A computer-implemented method of providing merge information in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user  
15 information providing means providing information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means and further an authentication service regarding said user, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring said information regarding said user from said  
20 user information providing means; and

providing said information regarding said user with merging.

52. A computer-implemented method of information in user  
25 information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user, said method comprising:

a user information offer providing step for providing, in response to a request from a merge user information providing

means comprising said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate user information providing means, information regarding a designated user to said merge user information providing means.

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53. A computer-implemented method of providing information in user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user, said method comprising:

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a user information providing step for providing, in response to a request from a merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate user information providing means, information regarding a designated user to said merge user information providing means.

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54. A computer-implemented method of managing in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means, said method comprising the steps of:

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acquiring said information regarding said user from said user information providing means;

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providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a set up request requesting for a set up of

said subordinate user information providing means.

55. A computer-implemented method of managing in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means, said method comprising the steps of:

10        acquiring said information regarding said user from said user information providing means;

         providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

         transmitting a set up request regarding a set up of said subordinate user information providing means.

56. A processor-readable medium storing program code for providing merge information in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means, said method comprising the steps of:

         acquiring information regarding said user from user information providing means; and

25        providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

57. A processor-readable medium storing program code for providing merge information in merge user information



providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means and further an authentication service

5 regarding said user, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring said information regarding said user from said user information providing means; and

providing said information regarding said user with merging.

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58. A processor-readable medium storing program code for providing information in user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user, said method comprising:

15 a user information offer providing step for providing, in response to a request from a merge user information providing means comprising said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate user information providing means, information regarding a  
20 designated user to said merge user information providing means.

59. A processor-readable medium storing program code for providing information in user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information  
25 regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user, said method comprising:

a user information providing step for providing, in response to a request from a merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising

said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate user information providing means, information regarding a designated user to said merge user information providing means.

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60. A processor-readable medium storing program code for managing in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring said information regarding said user from said user information providing means;

providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a set up request requesting for a set up of said subordinate user information providing means.

61. A processor readable medium for storing program code for managing in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring said information regarding said user from said user information providing means;

providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a set up request regarding a set up of said subordinate user information providing means.

62. A merge information providing apparatus having merge  
5 user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing user information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means,

said merge information providing apparatus acquiring user  
10 information regarding a user registered to the user information providing means of which use is permitted and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing the user by the user whether or not the use of said information providing means is permitted, said  
15 merge information providing apparatus providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

63. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 62, comprising:

20 distinction information managing means for managing distinction information that distinguishes said user registered to said user information providing means;  
user information acquisition means for acquiring said user information regarding said user from said user  
25 information providing means; and  
user information merging means merging said user information regarding said user acquired in said user information acquisition means.

64. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 62, wherein said distinction information managing means provides said distinction information of said same user to said user information acquisition means in response to a request from said user information acquisition means.

65. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 62, wherein said user information acquisition means acquires said user information regarding said user from said user information providing means by using permission information that permits the use of said distinction information and said user information providing means.

66. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 62, further comprising set up means for setting up said subordinate user information providing means according to a request.

67. A merge information providing apparatus having merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing user information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means,

said merge information providing apparatus acquiring user information regarding a user registered to the user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or authentication is made therein and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing

the user by whether or not the use of the user information providing means is permitted and/or the authentication is made, said merge information providing apparatus providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

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68. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 67, comprising:

distinction information managing means for managing distinction information that distinguishes said user is  
10 registered to said user information providing means;  
user information acquisition means for acquiring said user information regarding said user from said user information providing means; and

user information merging means merging said user  
15 information regarding said user acquired in said user information acquisition means.

69. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 68, wherein said distinction information managing  
20 means provides said distinction information of said same user to said user information acquisition means according to a request from said user information acquisition means.

70. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed  
25 in claim 68, wherein said user information acquisition means acquires said user information regarding said user from said user information providing means by using permission information that permits the use of said distinction information and said user information providing means.

71. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 67, further comprising set up means for setting up said subordinate user information providing means according to a request.

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72. A merge information providing apparatus having merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising main user information providing means and sub user information providing means providing user information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means,

said merge information providing apparatus acquiring user information regarding a user registered to the user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or authentication is made therein and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing the user by whether or not the use of the user information providing means is permitted and/or the authentication is made, said merge information providing apparatus providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

73. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 72, further comprises authentication information acquisition means for acquiring first authentication information that certifies said user in said main user information providing means from said main user information providing means.

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74. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 73, further comprising second authentication information creation means for creating second authentication information that certifies said user in said merge user information providing means and including said first authentication information, by using said first authentication information acquired in said authentication information acquisition means.

75. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 74, further comprising second authentication information providing means for providing said second authentication information to a client requesting said authentication.

76. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 72, further comprising set up means for setting up said subordinate user information providing means according to a request.

77. An information providing apparatus having user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user,

said user information providing means providing information regarding said user corresponding to said distinction information that distinguishes said user registered to said information providing means and/or other user information providing means to merge user information providing means in response to a request from said merge user

information providing means, said merge user information providing means including said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate user information providing means.

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78. The information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 77, further comprising user information providing means for saving said information regarding the said user.

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79. The information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 77, wherein said information regarding said user is user information and/or group information of a group to which said user belongs, said group information including user information and/or group information of other user information providing means.

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80. An information providing apparatus having user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user,

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said user information providing means comprising user information providing means for providing, in response to a request from merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate user information providing means, information regarding a user corresponding to distinction information that distinguishes said user registered to said user information providing means and/or

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other user information providing means, to said merge user information providing means.

81. The information providing apparatus as claimed in  
5 claim 78, wherein said user information providing means further comprising user information saving means for saving said information regarding to said user.

82. The information providing apparatus as claimed in  
10 claim 80, wherein said information regarding said user comprises user information and/or group information about a group to which said user belongs, said group information including user information and/or group information of other user information providing means.

15 83. A managing apparatus, comprising:

merge information providing apparatus having merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing  
20 means providing user information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means; and

setup request transmission means for transmitting information regarding set up of said subordinate user information providing means,

25 said merge information providing apparatus acquiring user information regarding a user registered to the user information providing means of which use is permitted and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing the user by the user information

providing means of which use is permitted, said merge information providing apparatus providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

5           84. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 83, comprising:

distinction information managing means for managing distinction information that distinguishes said user is registered to said user information providing means;

10           user information acquisition means for acquiring said user information regarding said user from said user information providing means; and

            user information merging means merging said user information regarding said user acquired in said user  
15 information acquisition means.

            85. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 83, wherein said distinction information managing means provides said distinction information of said same user to said user  
20 information acquisition means in response to a request from said user information acquisition means.

            86. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 83, wherein said user information acquisition means acquires said  
25 user information regarding said user from said user information providing means by using permission information that permits the use of said distinction information and said user information providing means.

87. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 83, further comprising set up means for setting up said subordinate user information providing means according to a request.

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88. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 83, further comprising setup screen display means for displaying a screen for setting up said merge user information providing means and said subordinate user information providing means.

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89. A managing apparatus, comprising:

a merge information providing apparatus having merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing user information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means; and

setup request transmission means for transmitting information regarding to set up of subordinate user information providing means,

said merge information providing apparatus acquiring user information regarding a user registered to the user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or authentication is made therein and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing the user by whether or not the use of the user information providing means is permitted and/or the authentication is made, said merge information providing apparatus providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

90. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 89,  
comprising:

distinction information managing means for managing  
distinction information that distinguishes said user is  
5 registered to said user information providing means;

user information acquisition means for acquiring said  
user information regarding said user from said user  
information providing means; and

10 user information merging means merging said user  
information regarding said user acquired in said user  
information acquisition means.

91. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 90,  
wherein said distinction information managing means provides  
15 said distinction information of said same user to said user  
information acquisition means according to a request from said  
user information acquisition means.

92. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 90,  
20 wherein said user information acquisition means acquires said  
user information regarding said user from said user  
information providing means by using permission information  
that permits the use of said distinction information and said  
user information providing means.

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93. The managing apparatus providing apparatus as claimed  
in claim 89, further comprising set up means for setting up  
said subordinate user information providing means according to  
a request.

94. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 89, further comprising setup screen display means for displaying a screen for setting up said merge user information providing means and said subordinate user information providing means.

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95. A managing apparatus, comprising:

a merge information providing apparatus having merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising main user information providing means and sub user information providing means providing user information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means; and

setup request transmission means for transmitting information regarding set up of said subordinate user information providing means,

said merge information providing apparatus acquiring user information regarding a user registered to the user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or the authentication is made therein and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing the user by whether or not the use of the user information providing means is permitted and/or the authentication is made, said merge information providing apparatus providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

96. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 95, further comprises authentication information acquisition means

for acquiring first authentication information that certifies said user in said main user information providing means from said main user information providing means.

5        97. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 96, further comprising second authentication information creation means for creating second authentication information that certifies said user in said merge user information providing means and including said first authentication information, by  
10        using said first authentication information acquired in said authentication information acquisition means.

98. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 96, further comprising second authentication information providing  
15        means for providing said second authentication information to a client requesting said authentication.

99. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 95, further comprising set up means for setting up said  
20        subordinate user information providing means according to a request.

100. A merge user information providing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information  
25        providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said user information providing means of which use is permitted and

the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information providing means is permitted; and providing said acquired information regarding said user  
5 with merging.

101. A merge user information providing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing  
10 means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said user information providing means of which use is permitted  
15 and/or authentication has been made and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information providing means is permitted; and

providing said acquired information regarding said user  
20 with merging.

102. A merge user information providing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising main user information providing  
25 means and sub user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said

user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or authentication has been made and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said  
5 user information providing means is permitted; and  
providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

103. An information providing method in user information  
10 providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user, comprising the step of:

providing, in response to a request from merge user information providing means, said merge user information  
15 providing means comprising said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate information providing means, information regarding a user corresponding to distinction information registered to said user information providing means and/or other user  
20 information providing means for distinguishing said user to said merge user information providing means.

104. An information providing method in user information providing means, said user information providing means  
25 providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user, said method comprising the step of:

providing, in response to a request from merge user information providing means, said merge user information



providing means comprising said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate information providing means, information regarding a user corresponding to distinction information registered to said user information providing means and/or other user information providing means for distinguishing said user, to said merge user information providing means.

105. A managing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said user information providing means of which use is permitted and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information providing means is permitted;

providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of said subordinate information providing means.

106. A managing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or authentication has been made and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without  
5 distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information providing means is permitted;

providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of said  
10 subordinate information providing means.

107. A managing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising main user information providing means and sub user  
15 information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said  
20 user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or authentication has been made and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information providing means is permitted;

25 providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of said subordinate information providing means.

108. A computer-implemented merge user information providing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information  
5 regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said user information providing means of which use is permitted and the same user registered to other user information providing  
10 means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information providing means is permitted; and  
providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

15 109. A computer-implemented merge user information providing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said  
20 user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or authentication has been made and the same user  
25 registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information providing means is permitted; and  
providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

110. A computer-implemented merge user information providing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising main user information providing means and sub user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or authentication has been made and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information providing means is permitted; and

providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

111. A computer-implemented information providing method in user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user, comprising the step of:

providing, in response to a request from merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate information providing means, information regarding a user corresponding to distinction information registered to said user information providing means and/or other user information providing means for distinguishing said user to said merge user information providing means.

112. A computer-implemented information providing method in user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user, said method

5 comprising the step of:

providing, in response to a request from merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising said user information providing means and other user information providing means as

10 subordinate information providing means, information regarding a user corresponding to distinction information registered to said user information providing means and/or other user information providing means for distinguishing said user, to said merge user information providing means.

15

113. A computer-implemented managing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user as subordinate

20 user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said user information providing means of which use is permitted and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the

25 use of said user information providing means is permitted;

providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of said subordinate information providing means.

114. A computer-implemented managing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or authentication has been made and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information providing means is permitted;

providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of said subordinate information providing means.

115. A computer-implemented managing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising main user information providing means and sub user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or authentication has been made and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said

user information providing means is permitted;

providing said acquired information regarding said user  
with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of said

5 subordinate information providing means.

116. A processor-readable medium storing a program code  
for providing merge user information in merge user information  
providing means, said merge user information providing means  
10 comprising plural user information providing means providing  
information regarding a user as subordinate user information  
providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said  
user information providing means of which use is permitted and  
15 the same user registered to other user information providing  
means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the  
use of said user information providing means is permitted; and

providing said acquired information regarding said user  
with merging.

20

117. A processor-readable medium storing program code for  
providing merge user information in merge user information  
providing means, said merge user information providing means  
comprising plural user information providing means providing  
25 information regarding a user and an authentication service  
regarding said user as subordinate user information providing  
means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said  
user information providing means of which use is permitted

and/or authentication has been made and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information providing means is permitted; and

5 providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

118. A processor-readable medium for providing merge user information in merge user information providing means, said  
10 merge user information providing means comprising main user information providing means and sub user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

15 acquiring information regarding a user registered to said user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or authentication has been made and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said  
20 user information providing means is permitted; and

providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

119. A processor-readable medium for providing  
25 information in user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user, comprising the step of:

providing, in response to a request from merge user information providing means, said merge user information



providing means comprising said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate information providing means, information regarding a user corresponding to distinction information registered to said user information providing means and/or other user information providing means for distinguishing said user to said merge user information providing means.

120. A processor-readable medium storing program code for providing information in user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user, said method comprising the step of:

providing, in response to a request from merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate information providing means, information regarding a user corresponding to distinction information registered to said user information providing means and/or other user information providing means for distinguishing said user, to said merge user information providing means.

121. A processor-readable medium for managing in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said

user information providing means of which use is permitted and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information providing means is permitted;

5 providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of said subordinate information providing means.

10 122. A processor-readable medium for managing in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user  
15 information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or authentication has been made and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without  
20 distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information providing means is permitted;

providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of said  
25 subordinate information providing means.

123. A processor-readable medium for managing method merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising main user information

providing means and sub user information providing means  
providing information regarding a user and an authentication  
service regarding said user as subordinate user information  
providing means, comprising the steps of:

5        acquiring information regarding a user registered to said  
user information providing means of which use is permitted  
and/or authentication has been made and the same user  
registered to other user information providing means, without  
distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said  
10 user information providing means is permitted;

      providing said acquired information regarding said user  
with merging; and

      transmitting a request regarding setup of said  
subordinate information providing means.